

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

(ISO) W

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R 191540Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7471

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 2321

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR EI

SUBJ: FITZGERALD VISITS NORTH

1. ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN DUBLIN PRESS, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER GARRET FITZGERALD RETURNED TO DUBLIN DECEMBER 18 IN PESSIMISTIC MOOD FOLLOWING A ONE-DAY VISIT TO BELFAST. HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER WILSON WHO WAS VISITING NORTHERN IRELAND THE SAME DAY.

2. FITZGERALD WAS "NOT DESPERATELY ENCOURAGED" AFTER TALKING WITH POLITICAL LEADERS, WHO REPORTEDLY INCLUDED THE REV. MARTIN SMYTH, OFFICIAL UNIONIST CONVENTION MEMBER AND LEADER OF THE ORANGE ORDER, MR. PADDY DEVLIN AND MR. AUSTIN CURRIE OF THE SDLP AND SIR ROBERT LOWRY, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONVENTION. FITZGERALD REFUSED TO CONFIRM WHOM HE HAD MET OR WHAT HE HAD DISCUSSED, BUT HE AFFIRMED TO THE PRESS UPON HIS RETURN THAT "THINGS ARE NOT LEADING IN ANY CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION." HE NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT MR. WILLIAM CRAIG'S COALITION PROPOSAL, WHICH HAD OFFERED THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATION ON A FORM OF GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT, HAS LITTLE HOPE OF GAINING ACCEPTANCE IN ANY FURTHER CONVENTION DEVELOPMENTS. FITZGERALD IS EXPECTED TO REPORT SHORTLY TO THE IRISH CABINET. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

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